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JW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In Re Applicant: Alan B. Shuey  
Serial No.: 10/029,087 Title of Invention:  
**Releasable Cable Grip**  
Confirmation No.: 3407  
Filed: December 20, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3677  
Examiner: Ruth C. Rodriguez Attorney Docket No. 010071  
Supervisory Patent Examiner: J. J. Swann  
Assignee: Ductmate Industries, Inc.

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 13, 2005

**REQUEST FOR REHEARING UNDER 37 CFR 1.197(B)**

Applicant is requesting a rehearing in view of the August 31, 2005 decision of the Board.

Applicant believes that the Board misapprehended or overlooked the contents of WO 97/36123 in analyzing Applicant's Argument that Facey teaches away from the combination proposed by the Examiner.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV637260994US  
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
On September 13, 2005 by Marci McCarthy

*Marci McCarthy*

Signature Paul A. Beck & Associates, P.C.

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Facey states,

If the locking device is of the type described in WO 95/30844 or WO 97/36123, the kit is preferably provided with a tool for releasing or withdrawing either of the wedging means, for adjustment of the length of the suspension system.

Column 2 lines 31-34 (emphasis added).

The Board has indicated that

Facey's teaching of preferably providing, in an equipment suspension kit including a locking device which is provided with apertures for insertion of a separate unclamping tool and which is not provided with a release lever fixed to the wedging means and extending to the outside of the housing, a tool for releasing or withdrawing either of the wedging means would in no way discourage one of ordinary skill in the art from instead providing a locking device provided with a release lever fixed to the wedging means as taught by Pasbrig. The appellant's argument with respect to teach away is thus not well taken.

Page 6 Paragraph 2 of Boards August 31, 2005 decision (emphasis added).

Facey's teaching is directed to the type of device shown in WO 97/36123 ("123"). '123 is enclosed for the Board. '123 discloses the use of a tool (Figures 1 and 2). '123 also discloses the use of a screw fixed to the wedging means and extending to the outside of the housing (Figures 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21).

Facey's teaching of "[i]f the locking device is of the type described in WO 95/30844 or WO 97/36123, the kit is preferably provided with a tool for releasing or withdrawing either of the wedging means" can be construed by a person of ordinary skill in the art to teach that the a separate tool is preferred over the other embodiment

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shown in WO 97/36123 which is the use of a screw fixed to the wedging means and extending outside of the housing. This would discourage a person of ordinary skill in the art from using a release lever fixed to the wedging means as taught by Pasbrig.

Rehearing is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

*John C. Thomas III 19-13-05*

John C. Thomas III  
Reg. No. 52,282

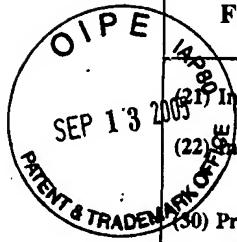
Paul A. Beck & Associates, P.C.  
Suite 100  
1575 McFarland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1808

Attorneys for Appellants  
Customer No. 09961



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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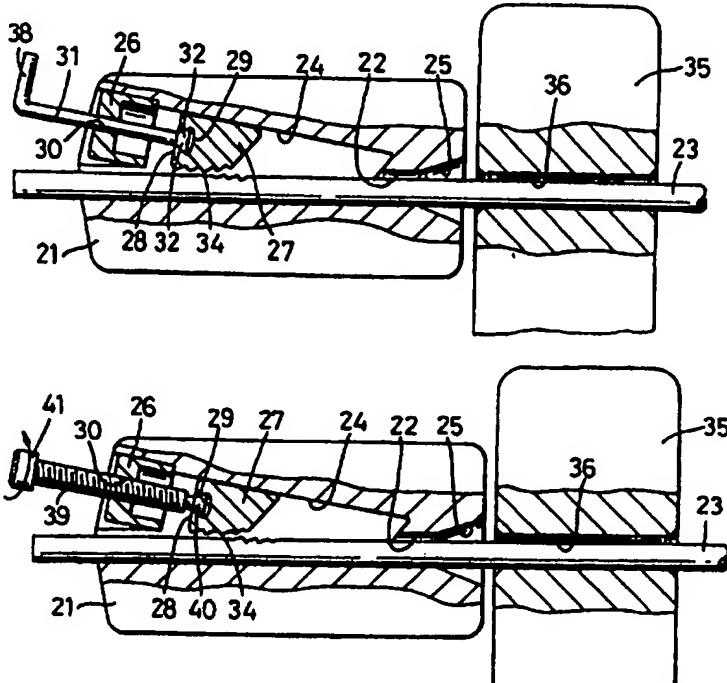
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GRIPPLE LIMITED [GB/GB]; The Old West Gun Works, Savile Street East, Sheffield S4 7UQ (GB).	
(72) Inventors; and	Published
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FACEY, Hugh, David [GB/GB]; St. Anns, Parkhead, Sheffield S11 9PY (GB). SHAWCROSS, Brian, Edward [GB/GB]; 14 Rose Avenue, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN22 7HR (GB).	With international search report.
(74) Agents: HULSE, Thomas, Arnold et al.; Hulse & Co., Eagle Star House, Carver Street, Sheffield S1 4FP (GB).	

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## (54) Title: DEVICES FOR CLAMPING WIRES, ETC.

## (57) Abstract

A wire or cable clamping device with at least one through bore (22), at least one channel (24) converging into communication with the bore, an abutment (26) at the remote end of the channel, and a wedge (27) movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, is characterized in that the face (28) of the wedge (27) facing the abutment (26) is provided with an undercut groove (29), and a hole (30) is provided through the abutment for passage therethrough of a rod-like tool (31) provided with diametrically opposed projections (32) at one end for pulling engagement with the undercut groove (29) by partial rotation of the tool from an insertion position, to effect withdrawal of the wedge (27) out of gripping position with a wire or cable (23) inserted in the bore (22). Alternatively, a screw (39) may be rotatable in the hole (30) in the abutment (26), the screw having a necked tip (40) at one end rotatably engaged with the undercut groove (29) to enable the wedge to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw being provided with means (41) for effecting rotation of the screw.



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DEVICES FOR CLAMPING WIRES ETC.

This invention relates to devices for clamping wires, ropes or cables, being of the type having a body, at least one bore through the body for an end of a wire (or the like, such as a cable, hereafter referred to simply as wire), at least one channel in the body converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end of the bore, an abutment at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, (and usually with a coil compression spring between the abutment and the wedge) whereby, upon attempted withdrawal of an inserted wire through the inlet end of the bore, the wedge forces the wire into frictional engagement with the wall of the bore opposite the channel.

Tensioning adjustment of an inserted wire can be effected by pulling the wire end emerging from the other (outlet) end of the bore, causing release of the grip of the wedge until that pull is released and the wedge can again exert a force on the wire.

The device with a single bore, channel, abutment, and wedge (with optional spring) may be a terminal device for a wire, or it may be provided with another bore, channel, abutment, and wedge (with optional spring), with the inlet end of the second bore at the opposite end of the body to the inlet end of the first bore, to form a connector for oppositely directed wire ends, and the two bores are preferably disposed in close side-by-side lengthwise relationship, with the regions of communication between the respective channels and bores closely adjacent each other, and with the wall portion therebetween capable of localised distortion under the forces exerted by the wedges through the inserted wires, to increase the frictional contact of the wires with the respective bores and/or allow the wires to come into contact with each other.

The object of the invention is to provide a wire (or the like) clamping device (or connector) as described above with means enabling release of the (or either) wedge to allow the wire end

(or the respective wire end) to be withdrawn in the opposite direction to that in which it had been inserted.

According to one aspect of the invention, a wire clamping device of the type having a body, at least one bore through the body for an end of a wire, at least one channel in the body 5 converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end of the bore, an abutment at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, is characterized in that the face of the wedge facing the abutment is provided with an undercut groove, and a hole is provided through the abutment for passage therethrough of a rod-like tool 10 provided with diametrically opposed projections at one end for pulling engagement with the undercut groove by partial rotation of the tool from an insertion position.

When the rod-like tool has been engaged with the wedge it can be pulled to retract the wedge (against the urge of any spring) and release the grip of the wedge on the wire in the bore, whereafter, while the wedge is held retracted by the tool, the wire end can be withdrawn in the 15 opposite direction to that in which it had been inserted, either partially (for positional adjustment) or totally.

The hole in the abutment preferably has a cross-section conforming closely to the cross-section of the end of the rod-like tool with the projections, and preferably has its largest dimension (corresponding to the overall dimension over the projections) aligned with the 20 lengthwise direction of the undercut groove in the wedge, so that upon insertion of that end of the tool into the hole it is automatically aligned with the insertion position into the undercut groove.

The undercut groove in the wedge may have a dovetail cross-section, and the projections on the rod-like tool have a mating angular profile. Alternatively, the undercut groove may have

a T cross-section, the projections on the rod-like tool then having a rectangular profile for mating with the wider part of the groove.

The invention also includes the combination of a clamping device and a tool as hereinbefore defined, and the tool preferably has a handgrip at its other end, which may be formed by an 5 integral loop of rod material or simply by a bent end.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a wire clamping device of the type having a body, at least one bore through the body for an end of a wire, at least one channel in the body converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end of the bore, an abutment at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge 10 movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, is characterized in that the face of the wedge facing the abutment is provided with an undercut groove, and a screwthreaded hole is provided through the abutment for rotation therein of a screw provided with a necked tip at one end rotatably engaged with the undercut groove in the wedge, to enable the latter to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw in one direction or the other, 15 the other end of the screw being provided with means for effecting said rotation of the screw, e.g., a cross-slot for a screwdriver, or a square or hexagon head for a spanner or wrench, or a recessed head for engagement by a key.

The undercut groove in the wedge may have a dovetail cross-section, and the necked tip of the screw have a frustoconical form with the smaller diameter end adjoining the rest of the 20 screw. Alternatively, the undercut groove may have a T cross-section, the necked tip of the screw then having a head engaged with the wider part of the groove and a neck connecting the head with the rest of the screw and passing through the narrower part of the groove.

The necked tip of the screw may have some freedom of movement with respect to the groove in the wedge in the axial direction of the screw, to permit tension loading of the inserted

wire to draw the wedge into a tighter grip. Alternatively, or in addition, the screwthreaded portion of the screw may lie between the necked tip and a plain shank having a diameter no greater than the base diameter of the screwthread, the length of the screwthreaded portion being limited such that, when the screw has been screwed in far enough for the wedge to have made 5 gripping engagement with an inserted wire, the screwthreaded portion becomes disengaged from the screwthreaded hole in the abutment, whereafter tension loading of the inserted wire can draw the wedge into a tighter grip - because the screw can be drawn inwards along with the wedge. The plain shank is preferably long enough to protrude from the abutment, so that it can be grasped by pliers or a wrench to effect withdrawal of the wedge until the screwthreaded portion can again 10 be engaged with the screwthreaded hole in the abutment.

Again, the abutment may be provided with a plain (i.e. non-screwthreaded) hole, and the screw provided with a nut non-rotatably slidable along the channel, with a coil compression spring between the nut and the abutment; the nut initially being positioned adjacent the necked tip of the screw so that an inserted wire end can push the wedge towards the abutment against the urge of 15 the spring, the screw can then be rotated to draw the nut towards the abutment so as to compress the spring completely, whereafter further rotation of the screw in the same direction urges the wedge into locking engagement with the wire. To release the wedge from the wire, an additional nut may be screwed on to the portion of the screw protruding from the abutment. However, before applying the additional nut the screw may be rotated in the opposite direction to that in 20 which it urged the wedge into locking engagement with the wire so as to move the nut in the channel towards the necked tip of the screw, to allow the coil compression spring to extend, then the screw is held against rotation while the additional nut is applied and rotated on the screw (preferably with a washer interposed between the additional nut and the abutment), so that the screw withdraws the wedge against the urge of the spring. Alternatively, the additional nut may

be held stationary and the screw rotated in the opposite direction to that in which it urged the wedge into locking engagement with the wire; a recess may be provided at the outer face of the abutment for engagement by the additional nut to hold it stationary (thus avoiding the need for a spanner or wrench), and the recess may be formed as an indentation in the abutment or by an annular up stand on the abutment, with the inner periphery of the indentation or upstand matching the outer periphery of the additional nut, or the recess may be formed by a pair of projections flanking opposite flats of the additional nut, which projections may be constituted by swaged-in side portions of the body of the device overlying the outer face of the abutment. Until the additional nut is applied to the protruding portion of the screw release of the wedge is greatly inhibited. The screw may be provided with a pair of flats extending longitudinally from the end remote from the necked tip, for engagement by a tool for effecting rotation of the screw, which tool may be provided with means for applying the additional nut.

According to a further embodiment of the invention, a wire clamping device of the type having a pair of bores disposed in close side-by-side relationship, with respective inlet ends at opposite ends of the body, and with respective channels, abutments and wedges (with optional springs), with the channels converging in opposite directions with the respective bores to regions of communication between the respective channels and bores closely adjacent each other, and with the wall portion therebetween capable of localised distortion under the forces exerted by the wedges through inserted wires, to increase the frictional contact of the wires with the respective bores, is characterized in that at least one wedge has its face facing the respective abutment provided with an undercut groove, the respective abutment is provided with a hole, and a screw, which is rotatable in the hole in the abutment, is provided at one end with a necked tip rotatably engaged with the undercut groove in the wedge to enable the latter to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw being provided with

means for effecting said rotation of the screw, e.g. a cross-slot for a screwdriver, or a square or hexagon head for a spanner or wrench, or a recessed head for engagement by a key. The hole in the abutment may be screwthreaded for engagement by a screwthreaded portion of the screw in either manner as described above in relation to a terminal clamp, or the hole in the abutment 5 may be plain, and the screw provided with a nut non-rotatably slidable along the channel, and with a coil compression spring between the nut and the abutment, also as described above in relation to a terminal clamp.

A clamping device as just described above may be used to secure a terminal loop or "eye" in a wire (or cable), the wire (or cable) end being first inserted through the inlet end of the bore 10 leading to the at least one wedge having an undercut groove until the wire (or cable) end emerges from the other end of the body, the wire (or cable) then being bent into a loop, preferably round a thimble, and the wire (or cable) end inserted through the inlet end of the bore leading to the other wedge until it emerges from the body again. A coil compression spring is preferably provided between that other wedge and its abutment, so as to urge the wedge into gripping 15 contact with the wire (or cable), which grip is increased by pulling on the loop; on the other hand, pulling on the loop tends to release the grip on the wire (or cable) in the first-inserted bore, which is why the screw is provided and must be used to lock the wedge on to the wire (or cable) before any load is applied to the loop.

Preferably, however, both wedges are provided with undercut grooves for engagement 20 by necked tips on screws rotatable in holes in the abutments, so that a wire (or cable) to be formed into a terminal loop or "eye" can be first inserted through either inlet end.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a part-sectional elevation of one form of clamping device in accordance with

the invention forming a terminal for a wire shown passing through a hole near the top of a post;

Figure 2 shows the device of Figure 1 in its as-assembled condition;

Figure 3 is a view from the left-hand end of Figure 2;

Figure 4 corresponds to Figure 1 but shows how release of the wire is effected by means  
5 of a special tool;

Figure 5 is a view of the tool of Figure 4 seen at right-angles thereto;

Figure 6 corresponds to Figure 2 but shows a preferred additional feature;

Figure 7 corresponds to part of Figure 4, but shows a modified tool and correspondingly  
modified wedge;

10 Figure 8 is a view of the tool of Figure 7 seen at right-angles thereto;

Figure 9 corresponds to Figure 1 but includes a locking screw;

Figure 10 corresponds to Figure 9 but shows the screw being used to effect release of the  
wire;

15 Figure 11 is a longitudinal section through a clamping device in accordance with the  
invention used to secure a terminal loop or "eye" in a wire (or cable);

Figure 12 is a view from the left hand end of Figure 11 before inserting the wire (or cable);

Figure 13 corresponds to Figure 12 but is taken from the right-hand end of Figure 11;

Figure 14 corresponds to Figure 11, but shows alternative locking arrangements in the  
device;

20 Figure 15 is an enlargement of a lower part of Figure 14, but shows the locking screw  
arrangement in its as-assembled condition;

Figure 16 corresponds to Figure 15, but shows an inserted wire pushing past the wedge;

Figure 17 corresponds to Figure 15 or Figure 16, but shows how the wire is released;

Figure 18 corresponds to Figure 16, but shows a further alternative locking screw

arrangement;

Figure 19 corresponds to Figure 18, but shows the wedge and locking screw in an initial locking position;

Figure 20 corresponds to Figure 19, but shows the wedge and locking screw in a tighter 5 locking position;

Figure 21 is also an enlargement of a lower part of Figure 14, but shows an alternative to the release arrangement of Figure 17;

Figure 22 is a view from the right-hand end of Figure 21;

Figure 23 corresponds to Figure 22 but shows a minor modification;

10 Figure 24 corresponds to Figure 22 or Figure 23 but shows a further alternative;

Figure 25 is another enlargement of a lower part of Figure 14 but shows a further modification; and

Figure 26 is a view from the right-hand end of Figure 25.

In Figures 1 to 4, a clamping device has a body 21, a bore 22 through the body for an end 15 of a wire 23, a channel 24 in the body converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end 25 of the bore, an abutment 26 at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge 27 movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, the face 28 of the wedge facing the abutment 26 being provided with an undercut groove 29, and a hole 30 being provided through the abutment 20 for passage therethrough of a rod-like tool 31 (see also Figure 5) provided with diametrically opposed projections 32 at one end for pulling engagement with the undercut groove by partial rotation of the tool from an insertion position.

The abutment 26 is secured in the body 21 by "staking" or swaging in side portions 33 of the body, as shown in Figure 3.

The wedge has a ribbed surface 34 to bite into the surface of the wire 23 when the latter is put under load, as shown in Figure 1, in which the device is shown as a terminal for the wire by abutting a post 35 having a hole 36 through which the wire passes. Thus the wire 23 may be a line wire of a fence or in a vineyard.

5 If the wire 23 becomes slack it can be pulled to the left in Figure 1 until the wedge 27 is released, whereafter the wedge can be pushed back into engagement with the wire, as by pushing the wedge by means of the tool 31 or - preferably - by means of a coil compression spring 37, as shown in Figure 6, between the wedge and the abutment 26.

The end 38 of the tool 31 remote from the projections 32 is shown bent at right-angles to 10 form a handle, useful both for rotating the tool to effect engagement and disengagement of the projections with or from the undercut groove 29 in the wedge 27 and for pulling the wedge out of engagement with the wire, as shown in Figure 4.

The hole 30 in the abutment 26 has a cross-section conforming closely to the cross-section of the end of the tool 31 with the projections 32, and the hole has its largest dimension 15 (corresponding to the overall dimension over the projections) aligned with the lengthwise direction of the undercut groove 29 in the wedge 27, so that upon insertion of that end of the tool into the hole it is automatically aligned with the insertion position into the undercut groove.

The projections 32 of the tool 31 as shown in Figures 4 and 5 take the form of a dovetail fitting loosely in a groove 29 in the wedge 27 of corresponding cross-section, while in Figures 7 20 and 8 the undercut groove 29 is a T cross-section and the projections 32 have a corresponding rectangular form.

In the embodiment of Figures 9 and 10, the hole 30 in the abutment 26 is screwthreaded for rotation therein of a screw 39 provided with a necked tip 40 at one end rotatably engaged with the undercut groove 29 in the wedge 27, to enable the latter to be pushed and pulled by rotation

of the screw in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw being provided, by way of example, with a recessed head 41 for engagement by a key (not shown) for effecting said rotation of the screw.

It will be appreciated that, in order for the wire 23 to be inserted through the bore 22 in 5 the body 21 of the device, the screw 39 must set the wedge 27 in a position similar to its position in Figure 10, whereafter the screw can be rotated to drive the wedge into locking engagement with the wire as shown in Figure 9.

With an undercut groove 29 of dovetail cross-section, as shown in Figures 9 and 10, the 10 necked tip 40 of the screw 39 has a frustoconical form with the smaller diameter end adjoining the rest of the screw. If, alternatively, the undercut groove has a T cross-section, as in Figures 7 and 8, the necked tip would then have a head (not illustrated) engaged with the wider part of the groove and a neck connecting the head with the rest of the screw and passing through the narrower part of the groove.

It will be seen in Figures 9 and 10 that the necked tip 40 of the screw has some freedom 15 of movement with respect to the groove 29 in the wedge 27 in the axial direction of the screw, to permit tension loading of the inserted wire 23 to draw the wedge into a tighter grip. However, the wedge 27 can be readily withdrawn out of engagement with the wire by appropriate rotation of the screw, as indicated in Figure 10.

In Figures 11 to 13, a wire clamping device of the type having a body 21, a pair of bores 20 22A, 22B disposed in close side-by-side relationship, with respective inlet ends 25A, 25B at opposite ends of the body, and with respective channels 24A, 24B, abutments 26A, 26B and wedges 27A, 27B, with the channels converging in opposite directions with the respective bores to regions of communication between the respective channels and bores closely adjacent each other, and with the wall portion therebetween capable of localised distortion under the forces

exerted by the wedges through inserted wires (as shown in Figure 14), to increase the frictional contact of the wires with the respective bores, is characterized in that one wedge 27A has its face 28 facing the respective abutment 26A provided with an undercut groove 29, and a screw 39 which is rotatable on a screwthreaded hole 30 provided in the abutment 26A, is provided at one 5 end with a necked tip 40 rotatably engaged with the undercut groove 29, to enable the wedge 27A to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw 39 being provided with a recessed head 41 for a key (not shown) for effecting said rotation.

The other wedge 27B is shown in Figure 11 with a plain face 42 facing towards the 10 respective abutment 26B, which has no hole, a coil compression spring 43 is provided between the wedge 27B, and the abutment 26B, and the clamping device is shown being used to secure a terminal loop or "eye" in a wire (or cable) 23, the wire (or cable) end 44 being first inserted through the inlet end 25A of the bore 22A leading to the wedge 27A (which, it will be appreciated, will have been set withdrawn sufficiently by the screw 39 to allow the wire to pass 15 that wedge) until the end 44 emerges from the other end of the body, the wire (or cable) then being bent into a loop 45 round a thimble 46 and the end 44 inserted through the inlet end 25B of the bore 22B leading to and past the other wedge 27B until it emerges from the body 21 again.

The coil compression spring 43 urges the wedge 27B into gripping contact with the wire (or cable) 23, which grip is increased by pulling on the loop 45; on the other hand, pulling on the 20 loop tends to release the grip of the wedge 27A, which is why the screw 39 is provided and must be used to lock the wedge 27A on to the wire (or cable) 23 before any load is applied to the loop 45.

If the position of the loop or "eye" needs to be adjusted with respect to the length of the wire (or cable) 23, e.g., because of slackness in the latter, the screw 39 is rotated appropriately

to withdraw the wedge, the thimble 46 and loop 45 then pulled away from the body 21 of the device, to take up slack, and then the thimble and loop are pulled back to the body by pulling the end 44 of the wire or cable farther through the bore 22B, thus releasing the wedge 27B until load is reapplied to the loop 45.

5 Preferably, however, as shown in Figure 14, the wedge 27B is also provided with an undercut groove 29 in its face 28 facing towards the respective abutment 26B, which is provided with a hole 30 for a screw 39 having a necked tip 40 rotatably engaged in the undercut groove, so that the wedge 27B can be positively locked onto the wire (or cable) 23. The other end of each screw being provided with a screwdriver slot 41. Figure 14 also shows an alternative 10 arrangement for the locking screw or screws 39, the abutments 26A, 26B being provided with plain holes 30 for the screws, which are each provided with a nut 47 slidable along the respective channel 24A or 24B and provided with a coil compression spring 48 between the nut 47 and the respective abutment 26A or 26B.

Figure 15 shows one nut 47 initially positioned adjacent the necked tip 40 of the screw 39 15 so that an inserted wire (or cable) end 44 can push the wedge 27A towards the abutment 26A against the urge of the spring 48, as shown in Figure 16. The screw can then be rotated to draw the nut towards the abutment so as to compress the spring completely, as shown in Figure 14 (and also in Figure 17), whereafter further rotation of the screw 39 in the same direction urges the wedge 27A into locking engagement with the wire (or cable), and in Figure 14 both springs 48 20 are shown in this condition and the screws 39 screwed in until the wall portion 49 between the regions of communication between the respective channels and bores (24A and 22A, 24B and 22B) is distorted locally by the forces exerted through the inserted wire (or cable) 23.

To release either wedge 27A, 27B from the wire (or cable), an additional nut 50 (see Figure 17) is screwed on to the portion of the screw 30 protruding from the respective abutment

26A, with a washer 51 interposed between the additional nut and the abutment, and either the nut 50 is held stationary and the screw rotated in the opposite direction to that in which it urged the wedge 27A into locking engagement with the wire, or the screw is rotated before applying the additional nut 50, so as to move the nut 47 in the channel 24A towards the necked tip 40 of the 5 screw to allow the coil compression spring 48 to extend, and then the screw is held against rotation while the additional nut 50 is applied and rotated on the screw.

Although in Figures 14 to 17 the tip 40 of the or each screw 39 is shown having a degree of freedom in the undercut groove 29 in the axial direction of the screw, to permit some tension loading of the inserted wire to draw the respective wedge into a tighter grip, a greater degree of 10 freedom in this regard is afforded by the plain hole 30 in the respective abutment allowing the screw 39 to be pulled by the wedge. Similar greater freedom in this regard is also a feature of the screw arrangement shown in Figures 18 to 20, in which the hole 30 for the screw 39 is screwthreaded, and the screwthreaded portion of the screw lies between the necked tip 40 and a plain shank 52 having a diameter no greater than the base diameter of the screwthread, the 15 length L of the screwthreaded portion being limited such that, when the screw 39 has been screwed in far enough for the wedge 27A to have made gripping engagement with an inserted wire (or cable) 23 as shown in Figure 19, the screwthreaded portion becomes disengaged from the screwthreaded hole 30 in the abutment 26A, whereafter tension loading of the inserted wire (or cable) 23 can draw the wedge 27A into a tighter grip, as shown in Figure 20, because the 20 screw 39 can be drawn inwards along with the wedge. The plain shank 52 is long enough to protrude from the abutment 26A, so that it can be grasped by pliers or a wrench (not shown) to effect withdrawal of the wedge until the screwthreaded portion can again be engaged with the screwthreaded hole 30 in the abutment.

In Figure 21 the additional nut 50 is held stationary by engaging in a matching recess 53,

which as shown by Figure 22 is formed as an indentation in the abutment 26A, while Figure 23 shows the recess as being formed by an annular upstand 54 on the outer face of the abutment 26A. Figures 21 to 23 also show the abutment 26A secured by staking or pins 55 through the side portions 33 of the body 21 of the device.

5        Alternatively, as shown in Figure 24, the additional nut 50 can be held stationary in a recess formed at the outer face of the abutment 26A by a pair of projections 56 flanking opposite flats of the additional nut, which projections are constituted by swaged-in side portions 33 of the body 21 of the device overlying the outer face of the abutment.

In Figures 25 and 26, the screw 39 is shown provided with a pair of flats 41X extending 10 longitudinally from the end remote from the necked tip 40, for engagement by a tool (not shown) for effecting rotation of the screw, and which tool may be provided with means for applying the additional nut 50 for use in effecting release of the wedge 27A from the wire 23.

## CLAIMS

1. A wire clamping device of the type having a body (21), at least one bore (22) through the body for an end of a wire (23), at least one channel (24) in the body converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end (25) of the bore, an abutment (26) at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge (27) movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, characterized in that the face (28) of the wedge (27) facing the abutment (26) is provided with an undercut groove (29), and a hole (30) is provided through the abutment for passage therethrough of a rod-like tool (31) provided with diametrically opposed projections (32) at one end for pulling engagement with the undercut groove (29) by partial rotation of the tool from an insertion position.
2. A wire clamping device as in Claim 1, characterized in that the hole (30) in the abutment (26) has a cross-section conforming closely to the cross-section of the end of the rod-like tool (31) with the projections (32).
3. A wire clamping device as in Claim 2, characterized in that the largest dimension of the hole (30) is aligned with the lengthwise direction of the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27), so that upon insertion of that end of the tool (31) into the hole (30) it is automatically aligned with the insertion position into the undercut groove.
4. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27) has a dovetail cross-section, and the projections (32) on the rod-like tool (31) have a mating angular profile.
5. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27) has a T cross-section and the projections (32) on the rod-like tool (31) have a rectangular profile for mating with the wider part of the groove.

6. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a coil compression spring (37) is provided between the abutment (26) and the wedge (27).

7. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized by the combination therewith of a tool as defined in any of Claims 1 to 5.

5 8. A combination of wire clamping device and tool as in Claim 7, characterized in that the tool has a handgrip at its other end.

9. A combination of wire clamping device and tool as in Claim 8, characterized in that the handgrip (38) is formed by a bent end of the rod-like tool.

10. A wire clamping device of the type having a body (21), at least one bore (22) through 10 the body for an end of a wire (23), at least one channel (24) in the body converging at an acute angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end (25) of the bore, an abutment (26) at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge (27) movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, characterized in that the face (28) of the wedge (27) facing the abutment is provided with an 15 undercut groove (29), and a screwthreaded hole (30) is provided through the abutment (26) for rotation therein of a screw (39) provided with a necked tip (40) at one end rotatably engaged with the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27), to enable the latter to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw (39) in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw being provided with means (41) for effecting rotation of the screw.

20 11. A wire clamping device as in Claim 10, characterized in that the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27) has a dovetail cross-section, and the necked tip (40) of the screw (39) has a frustoconical form with the smaller diameter end adjoining the rest of the screw.

12. A wire clamping device as in Claim 10, characterized in that the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27) has a T cross-section, and the necked tip (40) of the screw then has a head

engaging with the wider part of the groove and a neck connecting the head with the rest of the screw and passing through the narrower part of the groove.

13. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 10 to 12, characterized in that the necked tip (40) of the screw (39) has some freedom of movement with respect to the groove (29) 5 in the wedge (27) in the axial direction of the screw.

14. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 10 to 13, characterized in that the screwthreaded portion of the screw (39) lies between the necked tip (40) and a plain shank (52) having a diameter no greater than the base diameter of the screwthread, the length (L) of the screwthreaded portion being limited such that, when the screw (39) has been screwed in far 10 enough for the wedge (27) to have made gripping engagement with an inserted wire (23) the screwthreaded portion becomes disengaged from the screwthreaded hole (30) in the abutment (26), and the plain shank (52) projects from the abutment (26).

15. A wire clamping device of the type having a body (21), at least one bore (22) through the body for an end of a wire (23), at least one channel (24) in the body converging at an acute 15 angle and into communication with the bore towards an inlet end (25) of the bore, an abutment (26) at the end of the channel remote from the inlet end of the bore, and a wedge (27) movable along the channel between the abutment and the region of communication with the bore, characterized in that the face (28) of the wedge (27) facing the abutment is provided with an undercut groove (29), and the abutment (26A) is provided with a plain hole (30), and the screw 20 (39) is provided with a nut (47) non-rotatably slidable along the channel (24), with a coil compression spring (48) between the nut and the abutment; the nut (47) being initially positioned adjacent the necked tip (40) of the screw (39) so that an inserted wire end (44) can push the wedge (27) towards the abutment (26) against the urge of the spring (48), the screw (39) can then be rotated to draw the nut (47) towards the abutment (26) so as to compress the spring (48)

completely, whereafter further rotation of the screw (39) in the same direction urges the wedge (27) into locking engagement with the wire (23).

16. A wire clamping device as in Claim 15, characterized in that another nut (50) is provided for screwing onto the portion of the screw (39) protruding from the abutment (26) for 5 use in effecting release of the wedge (27) from the wire (23).

17. A wire clamping device as in Claim 16, characterized in that a washer (51) is interposed between the nut (50) and the abutment (26).

18. A wire clamping device as in Claim 16, characterized in that a recess (53) is provided at the outer face of the abutment (26) for engagement by the additional nut (50) to hold it 10 stationary.

19. A wire clamping device as in Claim 18, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed as an indentation in the abutment (26), with the inner periphery of the indentation matching the outer periphery of the additional nut (50).

20. A wire clamping device as in Claim 18, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed 15 by an annular upstand (54) on the abutment (26), with the inner periphery of the upstand matching the outer periphery of the additional nut (50).

21. A wire clamping device as in Claim 18, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed by a pair of projections (56) flanking opposite flats of the additional nut (50).

22. A wire clamping device as in Claim 21, characterized in that the projections (56) are 20 constituted by swaged-in side portions (33) of the body (21) of the device overlying the outer face of the abutment (26).

23. A wire clamping device as in Claim 15 or Claim 16, characterized in that the screw (39) is provided with a pair of flats (41X) extending longitudinally from the end of the screw remote from the necked tip (40).

24. A wire clamping device of the type having a pair of bores (22A, 22B) disposed in close side-by-side relationship, with respective inlet ends (25A, 25B), at opposite ends of the body (21) and with respective channels (24A, 24B), abutments (26A, 26B) and wedges (27A, 27B), with the channels (24A, 24B) converging in opposite directions with the respective bores (22A, 22B) to regions of communication between the respective channels and bores closely adjacent each other, and with the wall portion (49) therebetween capable of localised distortion under the forces exerted by the wedges (27A, 27B) through inserted wires (23) to increase the frictional contact of the wires with the respective bores (22A, 22B), characterised in that at least one wedge (27A) has its face (28) facing the respective abutment (26A) provided with an undercut groove (29), the respective abutment (26A) is provided with a hole (30), and a screw (39), which is rotatable in the hole in the abutment, is provided at one end with a necked tip (40) rotatably engaged with the undercut groove (29) in the wedge (27A) to enable the latter to be pushed and pulled by rotation of the screw (39) in one direction or the other, the other end of the screw (39) being provided with means (41) for effecting said rotation of the screw.

15 25. A wire clamping device as in Claim 24, characterized in that the other wedge (27B) has a plain face (42) facing towards the respective abutment (26B), and a coil compression spring (43) is provided between the wedge (27B) and the abutment (26B).

26. A wire clamping device as in Claim 24, characterized in that the other wedge (27B) is provided with an undercut groove (29) in its face (28) facing towards the respective abutment (26B), which is provided with a hole (30) for a screw (39) having at one end a necked tip (40) rotatably engaged with the groove (29) in the wedge (27B), the other end of the screw (39) being provided with means (41) for effecting rotation of the screw.

20 27. A wire clamping device as in any one of Claims 24 to 26, characterized in that the hole (30) in the or each abutment (26A, 26B) is screwthreaded.

28. A wire clamping device as in Claim 27, characterized in that the screwthreaded portion of the or each screw (39) lies between the necked tip (40) and a plain shank (52) having a diameter no greater than the base diameter of the screwthread, the length (L) of the screwthreaded portion being limited such that, when the screw (39) has been screwed in far enough for the wedge (27A, 27B) to have made gripping engagement with an inserted wire (23) the screwthreaded portion becomes disengaged from the screwthreaded hole (30) in the abutment (26A, 26B), and the plain shank (52) projects from the abutment (26A, 26B).

29. A wire clamping device as in Claim 27, characterized in that the abutment (26A, 26B) is provided with a plain hole (30), and the screw (39) is provided with a nut (47) non-rotatably slidable along the channel (24A, 24B), with a coil compression spring (48) between the nut and the abutment; the nut (47) being initially positioned adjacent the necked tip (40) of the screw (39) so that an inserted wire end (44) can push the wedge (27A, 27B) towards the abutment (26A, 26B) against the urge of the spring (48), the screw (39) can then be rotated to draw the nut (47) towards the abutment (26A, 26B) so as to compress the spring (48) completely, whereafter further rotation of the screw (39) in the same direction urges the wedge (27A, 27B) into locking engagement with the wire (23).

30. A wire clamping device as in Claim 29, characterised in that another nut (50) is provided for screwing onto the portion of the screw (39) protruding from the abutment (26A, 26B) for use in effecting release of the wedge (27A, 27B) from the wire (23).

20 31. A wire clamping device as in Claim 30, characterized in that a washer (51) is interposed between the nut (50) and the abutment (26A, 26B).

32. A wire clamping device as in Claim 30, characterized in that a recess (53) is provided at the outer face of the abutment (26A, 26B) for engagement by the additional nut (50) to hold it stationary.

33. A wire clamping device as in Claim 32, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed as an indentation in the abutment (26A, 26B), with the inner periphery of the indentation matching the outer periphery of the additional nut (50).

34. A wire clamping device as in Claim 32, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed 5 by an annular upstand (54) on the abutment (26A, 26B), with the inner periphery of the upstand matching the outer periphery of the additional nut (50).

35. A wire clamping device as in Claim 18, characterized in that the recess (53) is formed by a pair of projections (56) flanking opposite flats of the additional nut (50).

36. A wire clamping device as in Claim 35, characterized in that the projections (56) are 10 constituted by swaged-in side portions (33) of the body (21) of the device overlying the outer face of the abutment (26A, 26B).

37. A wire clamping device as in Claim 30 or 31, characterized in that the screw (39) is provided with a pair of flats (41X) extending longitudinally from the end of the screw remote from the necked tip (40).

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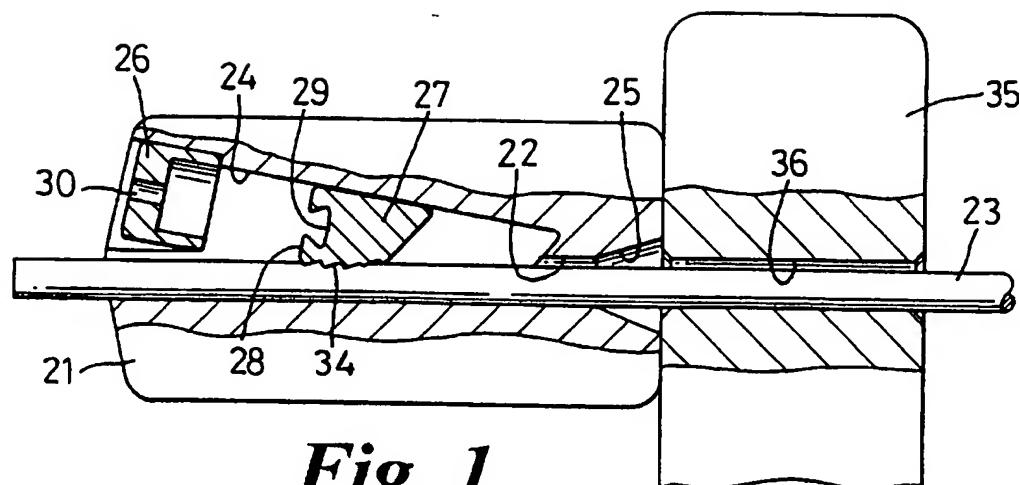


Fig. 1

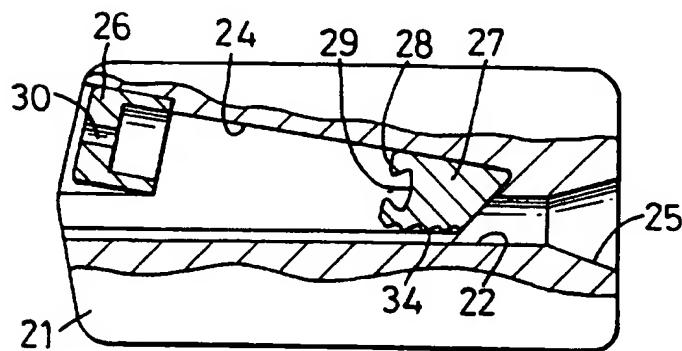


Fig. 2

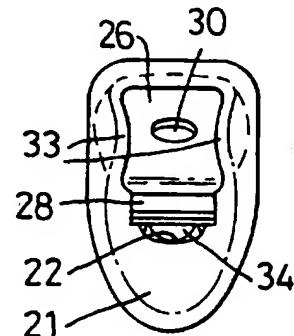


Fig. 3



Fig. 5

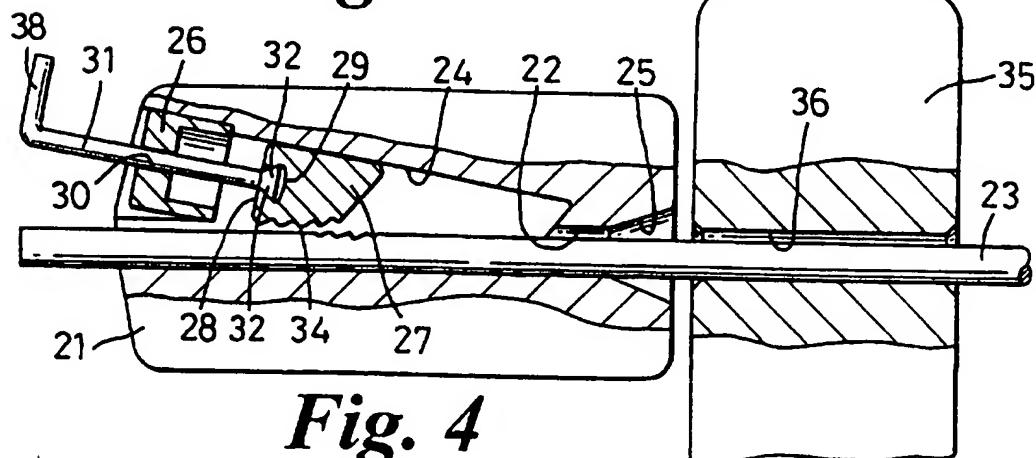


Fig. 4

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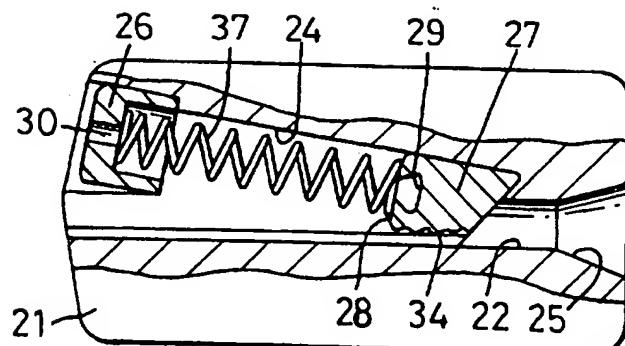


Fig. 6

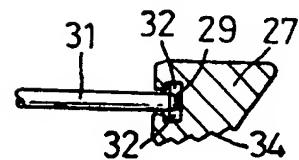


Fig. 7

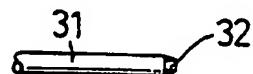


Fig. 8

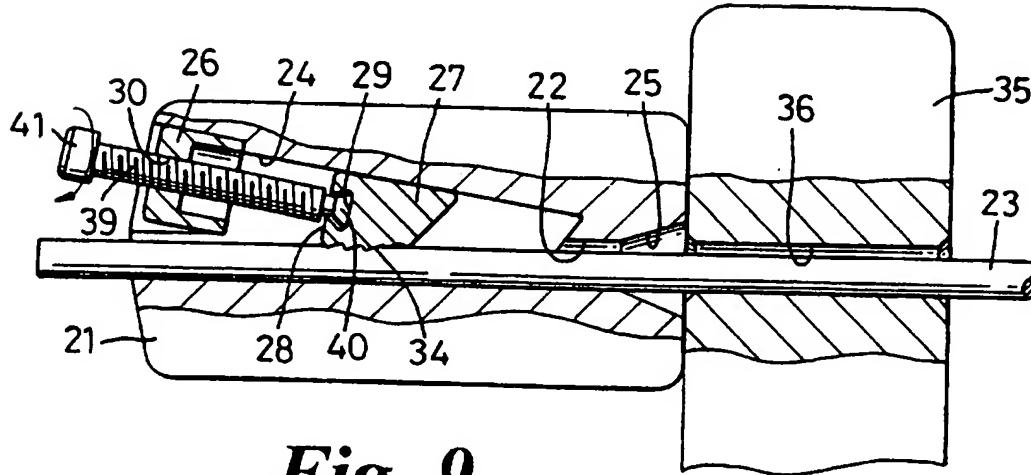


Fig. 9

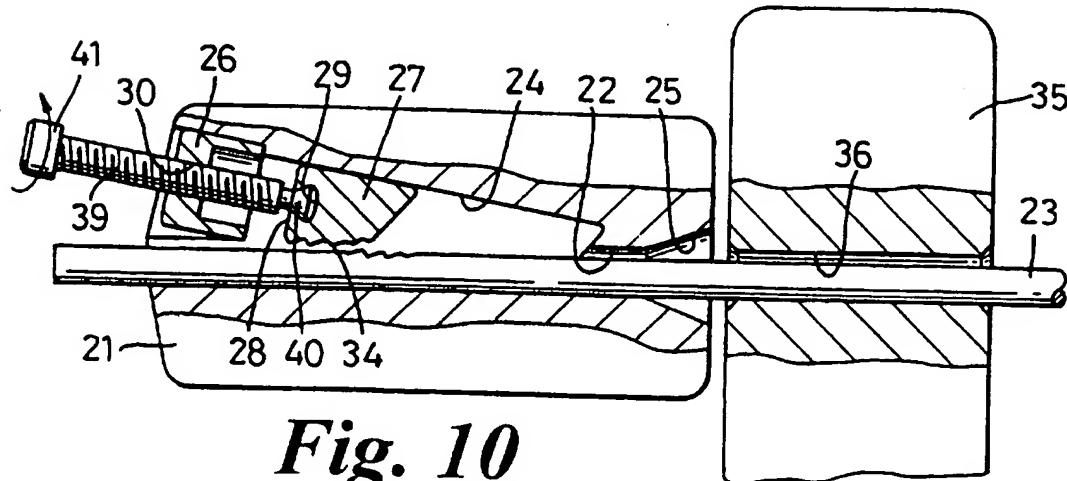


Fig. 10

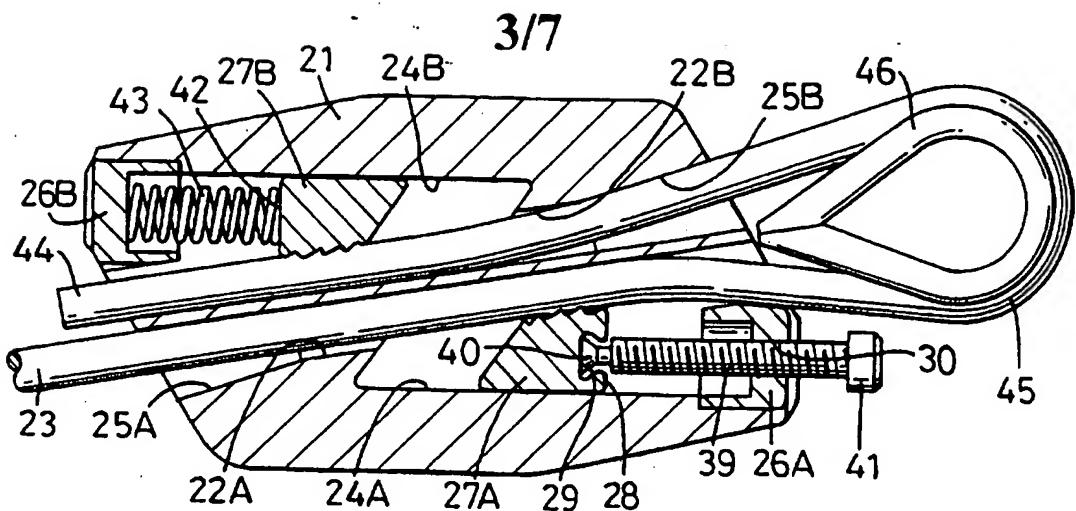


Fig. 11

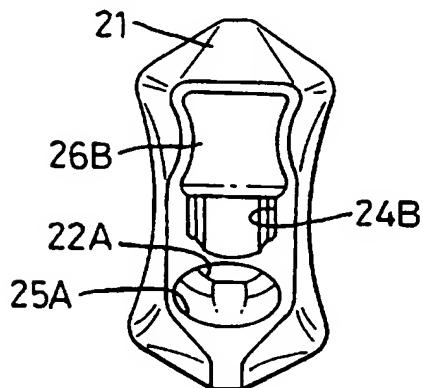


Fig. 12

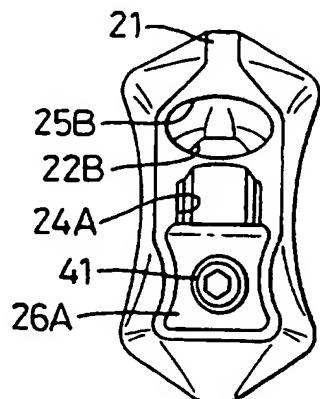


Fig. 13

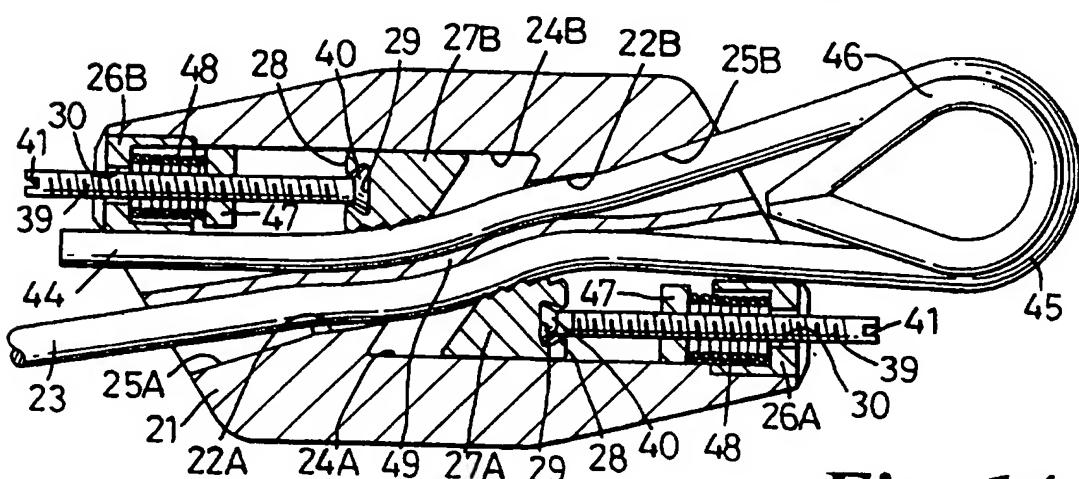


Fig. 14

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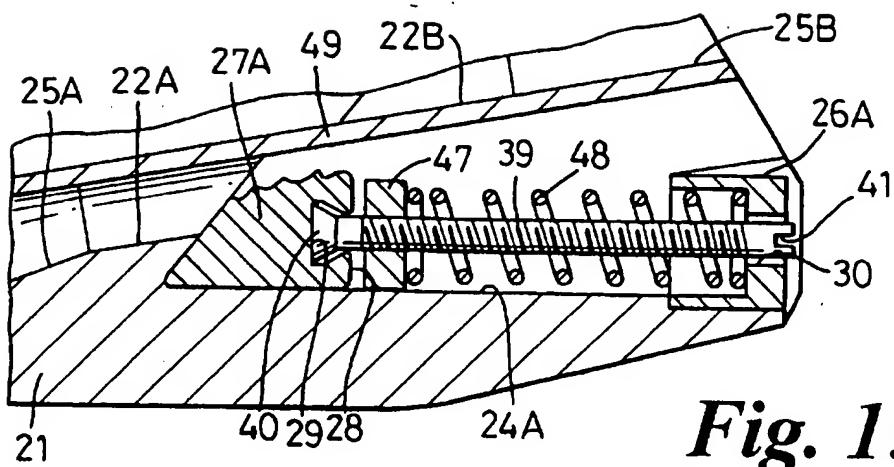


Fig. 15

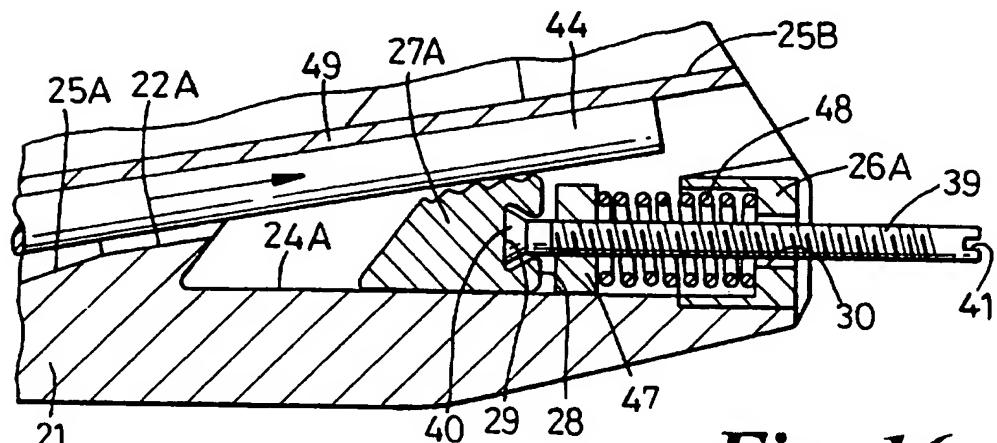


Fig. 16

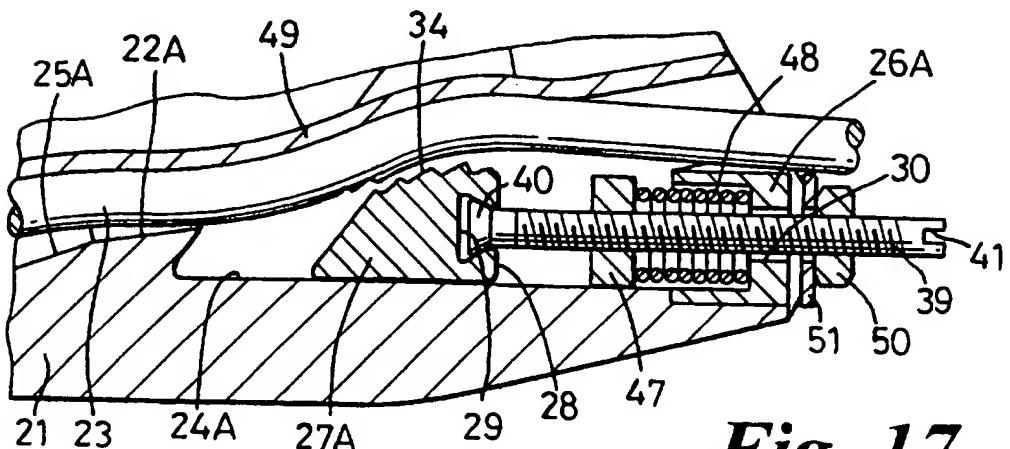
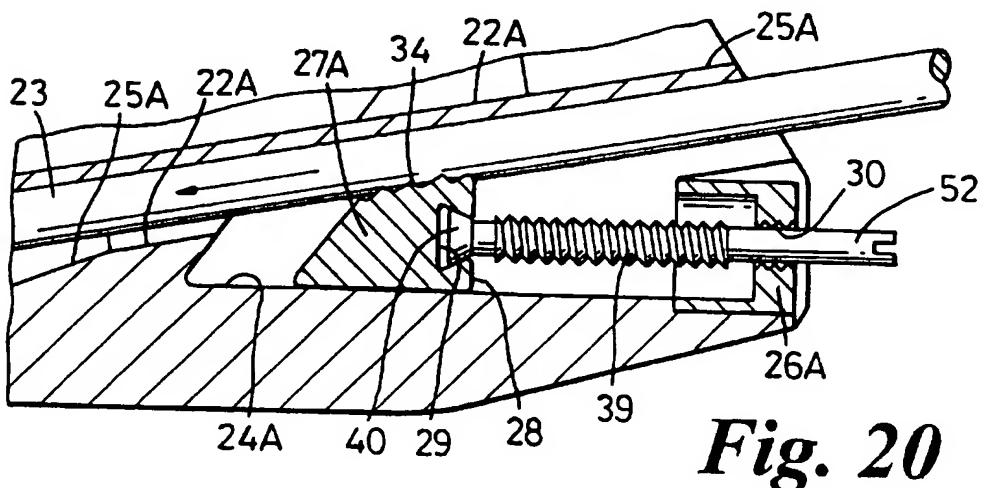
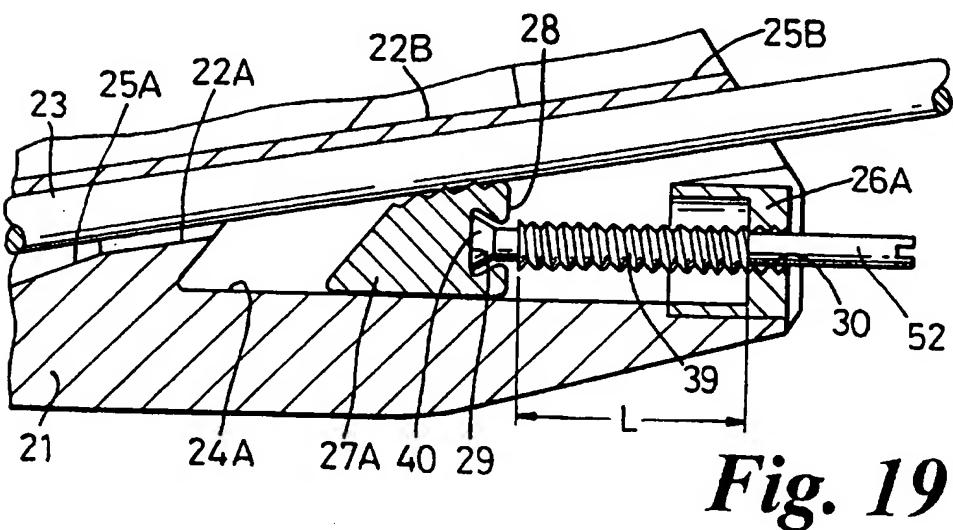
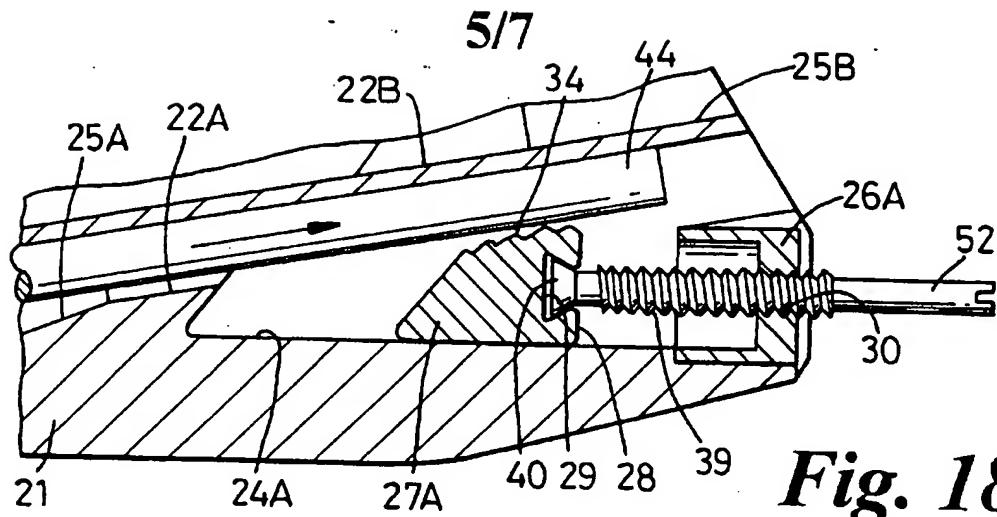


Fig. 17



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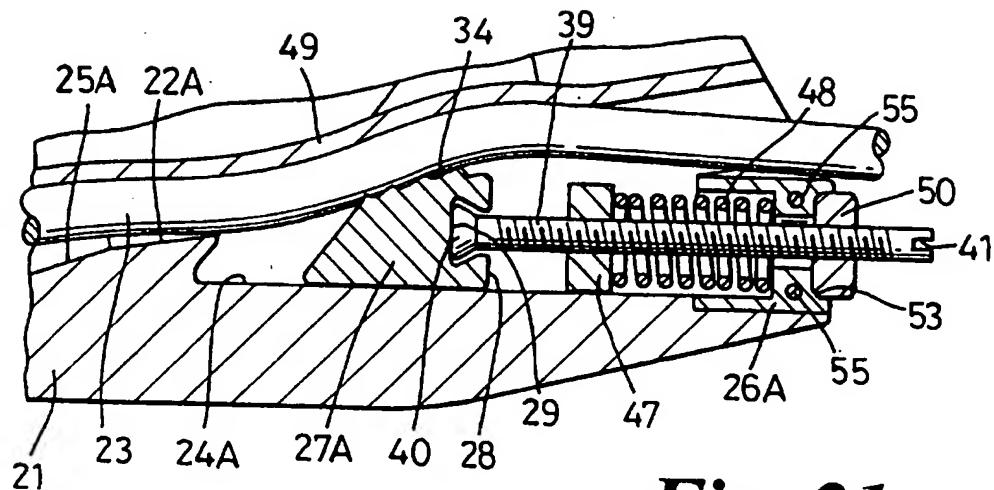


Fig. 21

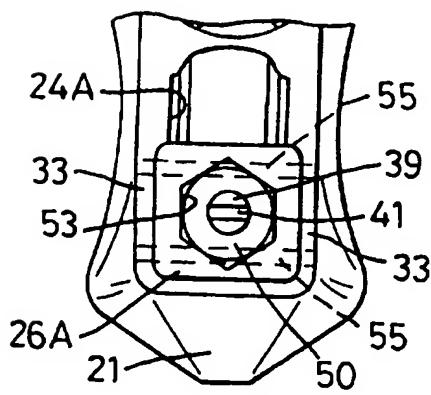


Fig. 22

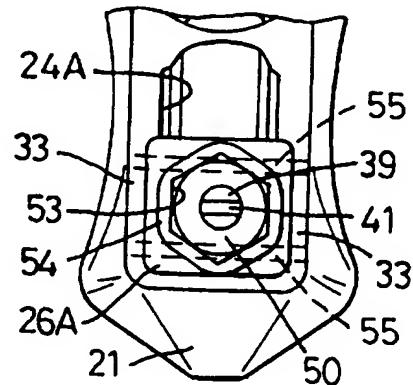
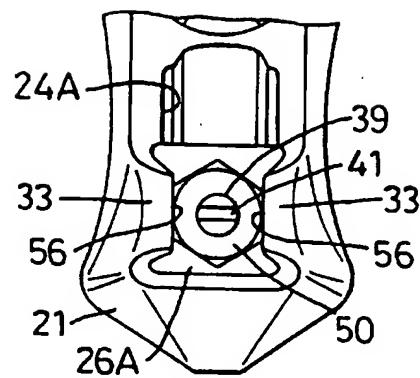
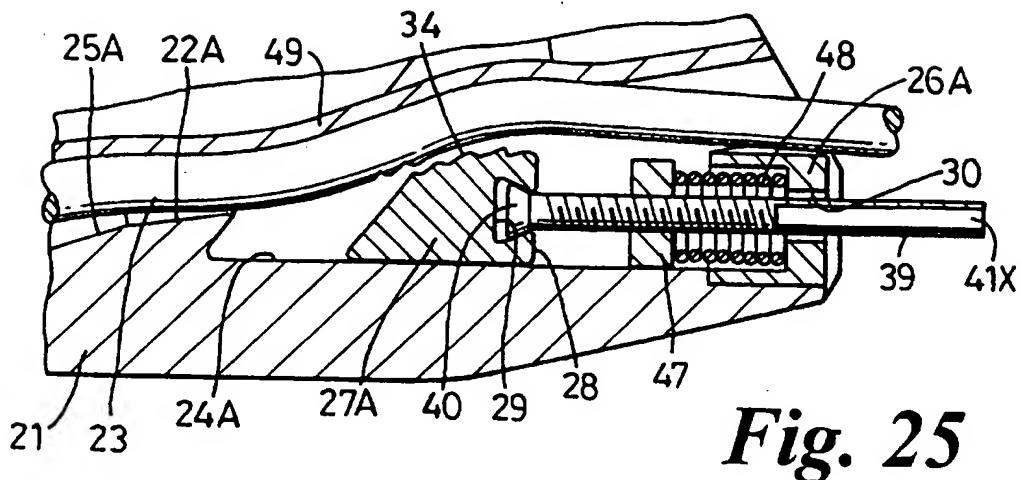


Fig. 23

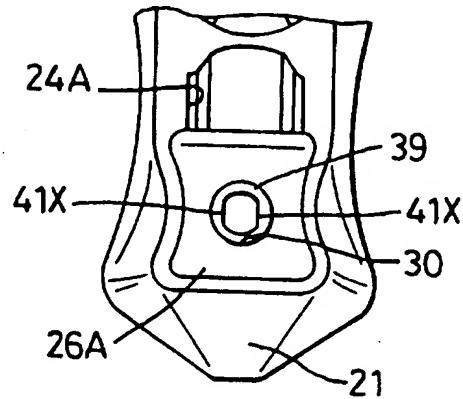
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*Fig. 24*



*Fig. 25*



*Fig. 26*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte...nal Application No.  
PCT/GB 97/00514

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 6 F16G11/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 6 F16G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 95 30844 A (GRIPPLE LTD.) 16 November 1995 see the whole document ---	1,10,15, 24
A	DE 36 01 233 A (PFEIFFER GERÄTEBAU) 24 July 1986 see page 22, line 19 - page 24, line 10; figure 1 ---	1,10,15, 24
A	US 1 507 316 A (KEMPER) 2 September 1924 ---	
A	FR 1 085 673 A (LAMY) 4 February 1955 ---	
A	GB 704 091 A (BRANDT) 17 February 1954 -----	

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1

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

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NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 97/00514

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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DE 3601233 A	24-07-86	NONE	
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